THE MADRAS POLICE JOURNAL

(Issued under the authority of the Inspector-General of Police, Madras)

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THE MADRAS POLICE JOURNAL

The Service Journal of the Madras State Police Force

(Issued under the authority of the Inspector-General of Police, Madras)

The Progressive Police Officer Cannot Afford to be without it.

This Quarterly Review contains the *best* and *most reliable* information on police matters. Nearly all its contents are written by serving Police Officers.

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include :

Notes on law with judicial decisions of importance to policemen,

Statistics of crime in the Madras State,

Accounts of serious crime, describing in detail police procedure and steps taken for detection,

Technical articles for policemen on criminal law, crime detection, modus operandi, frauds, new apparatus, photography, radio etc.,

Instructional articles on the scientific detection of crime,

Articles on general subjects of interest to police and law enforcement officers as well as to the layman, and

Articles on interesting and instructive police work from various forces in India and abroad.

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions should be typewritten with double spacing and should bear the name and address of the sender on the first page.

They should be addressed to the Editor, The Madras Police Journal, Police Training College, Vellore, North Arcot District, Madras State, South India.

Suitable articles on any subject of educative value or interest to the police or which promote co-operation between the public and the police, are acceptable.

Items not accepted for publication will not be returned.

NOTE

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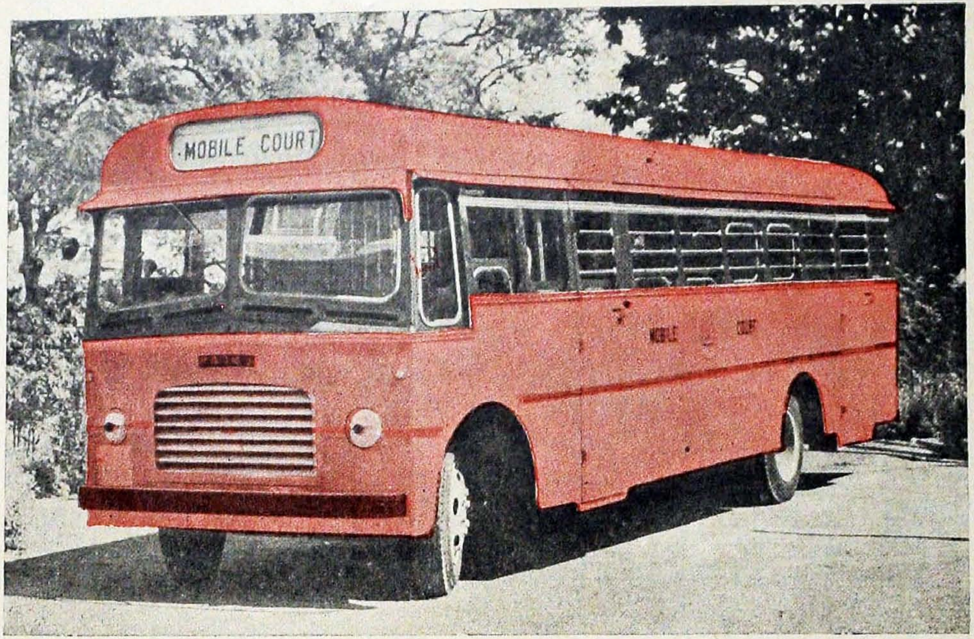

A COURT ON WHEELS

A Court on Wheels

by

M. SINGARAVELU, I.P.S.,

Commissioner of Police, Madras.

"MOBILE Court"

"Mountain going to Mohammed?" remarked a reporter in day-and-ginger humour.

Novel to Madras public, Mobile Courts are not something new to India. It is an institutional innovation consistent with the socio-economic changes that are so rapidly coming on and being fostered. It is a welcome sign of the times that the idea has had a warm welcome generally, though isolated voices are not unknown that look on this concept with some trepidation and doubt. Not that such a fringe of doubt, however mild or insignificant, is unnecessary, but it is somewhat uninformed.

"Justice delayed is justice denied" and everyone agrees it is so. Mobile Courts, in essence, is an instrumentality that cuts out delay in the due process of law and so promotes a better climate for the complex mechanism of social conformity and congress to move on with the least frictions. As a concept and as an institution, the Mobile Courts retain all the essentialities of investigation, hearing and judgment, but add to it another important dimension, viz., speed; speedy and not summary justice that underlies this institution.

This Court is intended to try cases detected within half a mile of the Court's location. To start with the Mobile Court will function in the following places :—

1. In the junction of Chamiers Road, Mount Road (Nandanam) near Poultry Farm.
2. Round Tana, Mount Road.
3. Corporation Grounds behind the Moore Market, Poonamallee High Road.
4. Traffic and Licensing Office, Poonamallee High Road.

A Special Honorary Presidency Magistrate will preside over the Court and dispose of all the cases before it. The type of cases to be disposed of by this Magistrate is listed below :—

1. Parking in a "No Parking" area (S. 81 and R. 449 M. M. V. Rules.)
2. Disobeying Police signal (S. 77 r/w 112 M. V. Act.)
3. Overtaking on the wrong side (S. 78 regulation 2 of the X schedule.)

4. Overtaking where it is forbidden (R. 449 r/w 112 M. V. Act.)

5. Failure to give proper signal (S. 79 r/w 112 M. V. Act.)

6 Failure to observe the rules of the road (Rule 449 read with Section 112 M. V. Act.)

7. Number plate not being illuminated (R. 296(b)(2) r/w Section 112 M.V. Act.)

8. Having no light in the rear (R. 296 r/w Section 112 M. V. Act).

9. Having only one light in front (R. 296 r/w Section 112 M.V. Act.)

10. Using the horns in a forbidden area (R. 449 r/w Section 112 M.V. Act).

11. Driving on the wrong side (S. 78(1) r/w S. 112 M. V. Act).

12. Riding on the middle of the road (S. 3 M. T. R.).

13. Turning without signal (S. 12 M. T. R.).

14. Violation of Traffic signs (S. 13 M T. R.).

15. Riding doubles (S. 39(d) (2) M.T.R.).

16. Riding without a light (S. 43 M. T. R.).

When charged, all offenders will at once be informed of their right to go before a regular Court. Officers detecting the violations will be briefed to ask the accused as to whether he would plead guilty or would like to have a trial in a regular Court. If he pleads 'guilty', he will be produced before the Mobile Court, otherwise he will be served with a notice for appearance in the regular Court as is now being done. The question of causing harassment to the common man therefore does not arise. In case where the fine is not paid forthwith, the proposal is for the Court to grant time. The accused who has been granted time for payment of fine will pay the fine to the Cashier in the Chief Presidency Magistrate's Court.

The institution of Mobile Courts is not something new in India. At Delhi, Mobile Courts are located at selected road sides and the Police produce before those Courts offenders who are committed for traffic violations in their sight and not in the view of the Mobile Court, on the ground that if an offence is committed within the sight of Magistrate of a Mobile Court, he is placed in the position of a witness and should therefore not try that case. It will thus be seen that the function of the Mobile Court is convenient not only for the Police and the prosecution but also for the accused. Rules are being drafted in order to ensure that the accused does not suffer any disability as a result of the institution of the Mobile Court.

Does the Mobile Court, when fining a person, imply the usurpation and exercise of judicial powers? Does it involve the prosecutor turning into a Judge as well? Obviously the answer is No. Because of the Court gaining a simple locomotion instead of being stationary, it does not *ipso facto* follow that the essential care of judicial

process has either been abridged or anaesthetised. The fact remains that the Mobile Court is still a regular Court and the mere addition of mobility has not, a whit, changed or affected the character or content of the Court of Justice as is well understood and acknowledged. It will function on all days of the week except Sundays and Holidays from 9 hours to 11 hours and from 15-30 hours to 17-30 hours. In contrast to Indian Police Officers, their counterparts in Scandinavian Countries are authorised to impose fines for offences of a less serious nature, unless the offender elects to be dealt with by a Court. Statistics show that the majority prefer to be fined by the Police because it leads to a substantial saving in the Courts', Police's and offenders' time.

It is convenience and speed superimposed on time-honoured principles of the Rule of Law; it is a Court on Wheels.

* * *

MORE LIGHT

A murder trial was in progress and the whole cause hung on the matter of time. Only one witness had seen the prisoner on the day in question, and he was the timid little man in the box.

Counsel for the defence stood up, cleared his throat, and pointed his finger at the witness.

" Now think carefully," he began, " Are you quite sure it was exactly a quarter to nine when you met my client ? ".

" Er—quite sure, Sir," replied the witness.

" Remember," went on the counsel, "that a man's life depends on your being right. It was a lonely road, there were no clocks about, you hadn't a watch, yet you remember the time exactly. Tell me, did you have anything to say to my client ? "

" Yes ".

" What did you say to him ? "

" I said to him : ' Excuse me, but can you tell the time ? ".

THE KOILPATTI DACOITY CASE

by

N. KRISHNASWAMY, M.Sc., I.P.S.,

Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Railways & Armed Police, Madras.

DHARMAR Nadar was a merchant living at Madurai. He used to buy grains and other items of grocery from wholesale merchants at Madurai and sell to retail merchants at various places in Tirunelveli District. Every Friday be would go round the various places in Tirunelveli District, collect his dues from the retail merchants, completing this work by Saturday at Koilpatti town. From Koilpatti Railway station he would invariably take the midnight train back to Madurai every Saturday night. He had been following this routine systematically for the last 10 years.

On the night of Saturday, the 23rd December, '62, Dharmar Nadar was thus making his way through the Koilpatti Bazaar road to the Railway Station. He carried a bag containing a set of clothes and his collections for the week amounting to Rs. 16,475/- all in currency notes, the numbers of which he did not know. As he approached a petrol bunk in the vicinity of the Railway station, three persons suddenly pounced upon him. One hit him with a stick, and another cut him on the head with an aruval. Two others, who stood near a row of shops on the other side of the road, scared onlookers from interfering by drawing attention to the man with the aruval. Dharmar Nadar fought against his assailants courageously but on sustaining the aruval cut on his head, he fell down, and the offenders made good their escape with his bag containing the money and clothes.

Within 15 minutes of the occurrence, on a phone call from a nearby phone by a neighbouring lorry shed, the Dy. Supdt. of Police, Koilpatti and his staff were at the scene. Dharmar Nadar, who was bleeding profusely from his head injury was rushed to the local Government Hospital and given timely medical attention. At the scene, (over which a guard was posted to preserve it undisturbed) amongst a number of interesting objects abandoned, there were a stick, an aruval, a torch light and a pair of sandals belonging to the accused. A police Dog, a Photographer and a Finger Print Expert were summoned to the scene post-haste. Police Dog Raja, from the Madras Police Kennels, was given scent from the sandals, and it tracked a distance of about a mile, which later proved to be the route of escape of the criminals, but finally the dog lost scent. The photographer took photographs

of the scene, and the Finger Print expert developed some fragmentary finger impressions on the torch light. Meanwhile at the Hospital Dharmar Nadar made good progress, and was able to give a vivid description of the three offenders who had attacked and robbed him. Fortunately for him the petrol bunk in the vicinity of which the occurrence took place was always well lit at night, as is usual with petrol bunks, and he could therefore see his assailants very clearly.

From the outset, it appeared that this was a well planned crime by persons who were familiar with Koilpatti Town and its topography, and who must have had knowledge of Dharmar Nadar's departures every Saturday night from Koilpatti Railway station, with substantial sums of money. The Venue for the crime had been selected obviously because of a deserted lane alongside the petrol bunk, through which escape out of the town, was easy and safe. In view of Dharmar Nadar's regular arrival by bus at Koilpatti every Saturday evening after his visit to other places in the District, and departure by the Saturday night trains, it was considered logical to commence enquiries at the Koilpatti Bus stand.

Enquiry at the bus stand brought into focus one Guruswamy Thevar, who till a month prior to the crime, was running a petty pan shop in front of the Koilpatti bus stand. Yet another channel of enquiry namely, identity of persons answering the peculiar description of one of the offenders, brought up the name of one Ponnuswamy Thevar of Nallichatram, a village 5 miles away from Koilpatti. He was tall, fair and well built, 45 years old with long flowing hair and a marked squint, just as Dharmar Nadar had described him. What was more, enquiry showed he used to carry a Winchester torch light and an aruval of the description abandoned at the scene, and what seemed to clinch the matter, he was closely associated with Guruswamy Thevar. A close friend of these persons was located in one Mottaiswamy, a watchman in a Match Factory, and questioning of Mottaiswamy put the investigation hot on the trial.

Mottaiswamy disclosed the existence of a small circle of his friends, who assembled every day to play cards. Among them was Guruswamy Thevar who lived in a house in the Workers Colony of a local Spinning Mill, because his wife worked in that mill. A few houses away lived another member of this group, Muthumari, who was a worker in the same mill. A third member of the group was Gomathi Chettiar, a worker of another Mill nearby. All these three individuals were in need of money, and were casting around for some way of making easy money. Muthumari in particular was badly off, since his loss, a year ago of a sum of Rs. 1500/- which he had invested in a counterfeit currency racket. The group was joined about 3 months prior to the crime by Ponnuswamy Thevar (already named above) and his friend Malai Moopanar, both bad hats of Nallichatram village, who were personally known to Mottaiswamy, and those two provided the professional criminal spearhead of the gang. All that was now needed was a victim and a plan.

In April, '62, one Saturday evening Muthumari was returning to Koilpatti from Sankarankoil, a neighbouring town by bus. He was accompanied by Pichaikannu, a cousin of Mottaiswamy, and he was feeling

depressed about his recent loss in the counterfeit currency investment. Pitchaikannu told Muthumari not to feel downhearted, and that the loss could be easily made good. So saying, Pitchaikannu pointed out Dharmar Nadar who was travelling in that bus, and said he knew that Dharmar Nadar passed through Koilpatti every Saturday night with heavy collections of money. Retaining this information in his mind Muthumari pointed out Dharmar Nadar to Guruswamy Thevar at the latter's shop at the bus stand, on one of Dharmar Nadar's trips through Koilpatti shortly after. They discussed this with Gomathi Chettiar, and when they were joined by Ponnuswamy Thevar and Malai Moopanar they laid their plans. During the two months preceding the crime the gang watched the movement of Dharmar Nadar every Saturday evening, for finalising the location and timing of the crime. Records in the local spinning mills shows that Muthumari and Gomathi Chettiar systematically took leave of absence on every Saturday during this period.

On the night of Saturday the 23rd December, '62, the gang brought off the crime as per plan. From the information given by Mottaiswamy, detailed enquiries were made on the movements of the gang that day. A petty hotel keeper at the bus stand spoke to the five accused eating chappatis and mutton at his shop at about 8-30 p. m. that night - obviously while waiting at the bus stand for the arrival of the victim. A neighbouring pan shop keeper spoke to supplying them betel leaves. Dharmar Nadar arrived by the bus from Sankarankoil at 9-25 p. m. made his last collection for the day, of Rs. 1000/- from Ganapathi Chettiar, a local merchant, and then proceeded to the lorry shed of his friend Nataraja Nadar, when he sorted out his accounts for the day, and spent his time till about midnight, when he started for the Railway station. An employee in the shop of Ganapathi Chettiar spoke to the five offenders loitering outside the shop when Dharmar Nadar had come there, and likewise witnesses spoke to the presence of Guruswamy Thevar and Gomathi Chettiar near the lorry shed of Nataraja Nadar. It transpired that the other three went in advance to the venue for the crime, and their going together was spoken to by other witnesses. What transpired at the scene of crime has already been described.

On 28-12-'62 morning Ponnuswamy Thevar was arrested at his village Nallichatram by the Sub-Inspector, Koilpatti. Confronted with a few of the facts in evidence against him, he gave out a full confession on how the crime was perpetrated by himself and the four others. He led the S. I. to his fields, and from a mud pot buried there, produced his share of the loot, totalling Rs. 3000/-. Guruswamy Thevar who was rounded up the same afternoon, was produced before the Dy. Supdt. of Police, Koilpatti. When he saw Ponnuswamy Thevar standing before the Dy. Supdt. of Police and the bundle of seized currency on the Dy. Supdt.'s table, he saw the game was up. He led the party to the bed of a dry channel, a mile from Koilpatti, and dug out a pot buried in the sands. In the pot were found currency notes totalling Rs. 10,275/- in value. This represented the share of Guruswamy Thevar, Muthumari

and Gomathi Chettiar which they had decided to put away jointly till safer times. The money was wrapped in a towel which Dharmar Nadar had carried in his bag with the money. The same night Muthumari and Gomathi Chettiar were arrested, and on 30—12—62 night the last offender, Malai Moopanar was arrested, wearing a dhoti which also had been in the bag with the money of Dharmar Nadar. Of his share of Rs. 3200/- he had spent Rs. 150/- and hidden the balance in a tin box buried in a nearby field, and this was duly recovered. Thus within a week of the crime all the offenders involved in the crime were in custody, and all but Rs. 150/- of the booty had been recovered. The whole population of Koilpatti turned out in thousands in excitement to see each offender being brought to the Police station!

A few links in evidence had to be established. Initials and seals on the currency notes were identified by various merchants from whom Dharmar Nadar had collected them, putting the important question of identity of the stolen currency beyond doubt. Dharmar Nadar identified Guruswamy Thevar, Ponnuswamy Thevar and Malai Moopanar as the offenders who fell upon him and robbed him. Other witnesses identified Muthumari and Gomathi Chettiar as the persons who deterred them from going to the rescue of Dharmar Nadar. Evidence was led to show that of the articles abandoned by the offenders at the scene of crime, the torch, aruval and sandals belonged to Ponnuswamy Thevar. For the perpetration of the crime, however, he had given the torch to Guruswamy Thevar, and the aruval to Malai Moopanar and picked up a stick for himself. On top of it all came the clinching evidence of the finger print expert who identified the finger print fragments on the torch as those of Guruswamy Thevar and Ponnuswamy Thevar. The evidence against Gomathi Chettiar and Muthumari was not considered sufficiently clinching, and so the Sessions Court gave them the benefit of doubt. But the evidence against Guruswamy Thevar, Ponnuswamy Thevar and Malai Moopanar was so over-whelming that the Court had no hesitation in convicting them and awarding each of them seven years rigorous imprisonment.

* * *

"The more you lessen your needs
and desires, the more happiness you have."

—Guruji.

ROAD SAFETY

by

K. RAMAMURTI, I.P.S.,
Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic and Licensing, Madras.

ON 15-4-65 a boy aged 14, the only son of his parents entreated his parents to allow him to go to School on a cycle. The boy was studying in the S. S. L. C. class in Hindu High School and usually went by bus from Adyar. On that day the boy wanted to purchase a commemoration stamp issued by the P & T and therefore took a cycle to go to his School after purchasing the stamp from the Post-Master-General's Office on Mount Road. After purchasing the stamp, the boy was cycling along the Mount Road near the pavement, when a private car knocked him down and later ran over him and killed him. The father of the boy had gone to the General Hospital to see his ailing brother who was an in-patient in the Hospital. News reached him that his son had met with an accident and the dead body had been brought to the Mortuary. It was brought to light later that the boy had also won a prize in the Road Safety contest conducted by M/s. Burmah-Shell. The human misery caused by this accident cannot be sufficiently described but all that the people knew about this accident was that a boy aged 14 years was knocked down by a motorist and was killed on the spot.

Road safety has become a matter of vital importance because of the huge number of people involved in accidents. In 1964, 88 persons lost their lives, 300 grievously injured on the roads in Madras City. During the current year 1965, so far 35 persons have lost their lives and 121 were grievously hurt.

The problem of road safety has to be tackled from so many angles. It is necessary to find out if an accident was caused because of defective road formation or whether there was sufficient light at this spot during night time if the accident was at night, or whether the vehicles had overspeeded, or running with inefficient brakes etc. Last but not the least there is also the aspect whether the motorist was at fault or the person involved, viz., pedestrian, cyclist etc., was at fault.

The problem is being tackled from the educative, enforcement and engineering aspects. On the 18th January, 1964 a Traffic Game Park was inaugurated in Madras City, thanks to the munificent gift by M/s. Burmah-Shell who have taken great pains to educate the public on Road Safety. It is not necessary to say how greatly this Park could be put to use in educating youngsters, boys and girls less than 12 years in Road Safety. The Park has signs and signals which are usually found on the roads.

and the children with pedal cars and cycles are made to go through this Park observing the road signs carefully.

To teach the children, it is necessary to teach teachers first and with a view to training teachers of all Schools in the City, a Road Safety Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of the Director of Public Instruction. This Committee draws up a programme for training of teachers. The enforcement branch of the Traffic Police conducts the classes daily in the evenings from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The engineering aspect is being looked into by Traffic Engineers who are members of the City Road Development and Traffic Planning Committee. The Commissioner of Police is the Chairman and the Traffic Engineer, Corporation Commissioner, Corporation Engineer, Highways Engineer, Chairman, State Housing Board, Joint Director of Town Planning and Superintendent of Police, Traffic Planning Cell, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic, are all members of this Committee. Just as there is a Traffic Engineer on the Highways side, there is also at the moment a Superintendent of Police, Traffic Planning Cell, whose duty is to plan for traffic in the various mofussil towns in association with the Traffic Engineer.

Traffic Planning has received little or no attention so far in the matter of funds. This problem is proposed to be tackled on an All India plane and a group of Traffic Engineers, Police Officers who met recently in Bombay have recommended to the Union Ministry of Transport that a Traffic Fund on the lines of the Road Fund should be created to give assistance to the various States for effecting Traffic Improvements.

It is hoped that during the Fourth Five Year Plan sufficient attention will be paid to Traffic improvements all over the country. Master Plans have to be prepared for the cities in consultation with Traffic Engineers, better driving standards are to be obtained by running recognised driving schools and many places have to be acquired to provide more carriage-way as well as parking space. The problem is by no means easy but much has been achieved already by bringing to light the importance of Road Safety and Traffic improvements.

* * *

"The only good in pretending is the fun we get out of fooling ourselves that we fool somebody".

—B. Tarkington.

Police-Public Relations

by

P. N. SUBRAMANIAN, B.A.,

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Research Centre, C.I.D., Madras.

THE need for Police-public relations has been recognised from the time the concept of the modern Police Force was evolved. The Indian Police Commission of 1902-1903 observed "The report of the English Police Commission, presented to Parliament in 1839, contains a melancholy picture of the State of the English Police and the attitude of the people towards them. The principal remedies proposed in that report are very similar in aim to some of those now submitted to the Government of India and the comparison of the State of the English Police and their relations with the public now with those of sixty years ago, give great ground for hope." The Commission in its report of 30—5—1903 went on to say "There can be no doubt whatever that the evidence laid before the Commission has fully established that the Police Force has utterly failed to secure the confidence and co-operation of the people." The proposals for reform submitted by the Commission, among other things, aimed at promoting the co-operation of the people with the Police. In Appendix III of the Commission's report, under the caption "Training Schools for Constables", the course of instructions included (1) Drill, (2) Elementary Law and Procedure, (3) Use of the powers of observation, and (4) conduct of Police Officers towards the public.

Adequate emphasis does not, however, appear to have been laid on this aspect until the country attained independence when the entire outlook of the Police Force had to undergo a radical change. The chief feature of the last decade, has been the growing awareness that the success of any Police organization in the performance of its duties depended largely on the degree of support and co-operation it received from the people. The advantages of friendly relationship between the people and the police are now being appreciated and understood better.

Webster defined Public relations as the activities of a corporation, union, Government or other organization in building and maintaining sound and productive relations with special publics as customers and with the public at large so as to adapt itself to its environment, and interpret itself to society. Public relations, in so far as they relate to the Police, are the sum total of attitudes, impressions and opinions of the public in its relationship with the Department.

Satisfactory public relations have to be fostered at all levels of Police Service. The Indian Police Commission of 1902—1903 rightly envisaged the need for a course of instruction on this subject from the beginning of a constable's career. It is said that throughout the initial thirteen weeks course at the District Police Training Centres in Britain every man or woman on entry to the Police service is made to be repeatedly conscious of the many qualities which the people of that country expect in the Police. The Policeman is shaped to be looked upon by the members of the public as a guide, counsellor and friend, one to whom everybody can come in times of trouble or difficulty and from whom spontaneous help can always be expected. The success of getting the public to cultivate such an attitude depends on the way the members of the Police Force present themselves to the public.

The Police Journal of April–June 1959 in its article "The Pattern of Policemanship" says: "Frequently, in the course of his duties, he is approached by those who seek his help or advice in relation to something which is rightly outside the scope of his work. Time after time people come to him regarding problems or occurrences which would enable him quite lawfully to say 'I am sorry. That is nothing to do with me. I am a Policeman and that is not a Police matter' But he never does say that. Everything which affects a member of the public is, by virtue of a long established tradition, something to do with him." The journal claims that the British Policeman's reputation for helpfulness is thus second to none.

In the initial training of the Constables and Sub-Inspectors and at all subsequent refresher or other courses repeated stress is to be laid on the fact that incidents which, in course of time, become all too common in a Policeman's experience are of vital importance to the persons intimately connected. It may be a routine occurrence for a Policeman who receives a complaint of assault, kidnapping or burglary. But as far as the man reporting it is concerned, it is a very serious matter. Perhaps nothing like that happened to him before. Similarly reports on road or other accidents occupy a great deal of a Policeman's time, but to the man or woman making a report of the accident, there is the experience of great mental agony and excitement. No Policeman should ever give the impression that he is taking the report in a casual or routine manner. The Policeman identifying himself with the victim in his reactions to the occurrence will invariably earn the good will of the public. No policeman should ever be rude, aggressive or unhelpful towards an aggrieved person.

The children and young persons with whom the Policeman comes into contact in his daily work are the citizens of the future on whom he will be dependent for the support and co-operation which are so essential for the proper performance of his duties. He should, therefore, do everything possible to cultivate their trust, friendship and respect. Traffic control and Moving Beat Duties in School Zones are the best occasions for showing their helpfulness to the childen.

In addition to educating the public to make more use of the Police service and

thereby obtain their co-operation something must be done to ensure that all members of the public, irrespective of station in life, are treated in a civil and courteous manner whenever they seek the assistance of the Police. Much could be done to attain this if the common term " not a Police matter " was abolished.

People come to the Police for advice because they do not know of any other place to go and if they are merely given the phrase quoted above – and they frequently are, with an air of finality which leaves no room for argument - their opinion of the usefulness of the Police Force as a public servant will not be improved.

In practically all cases where an enquiry is made, either at a Police Station or from a Constable on the beat, it should be possible even if it is not a Police matter to give some useful information or tell where such information can be obtained or in any case to deal with the enquiry in such a way as to give the impression that there was a real desire to be of assistance.

The Police Officer must remember that he is a public servant and act accordingly. If he does not favour that view, let him look at the matter from a commercial aspect where success of his business depends on satisfied customers.

" THE POLICE " – an American bi-monthly journal in its issue of May–June, 1961 concluded an article on " The Police, Press and Public Relations " with the following :

" A special line of business was surveyed to determine the reasons why customers were lost. Here are the results of that survey.

1% loss of customers due to death.

3% loss of customers due to moving out of area.

5% loss of customers due to friendship arrangements.

9% loss of customers due to competition.

14% loss of customers due to dissatisfaction with the product.

68% loss of customers due to employee indifference. "

The endeavour of the author in furnishing the above data was to show clearly what would happen if the officers of the Police Department were indifferent towards the public.

In his dealings with the public, the Police Officer must not have too much regard for personal inconvenience as occasions will arise where he must suppress personal feeling. A member of the public who has the misfortune to commit some minor offence is, therefore, a friend or enemy of the police according to the treatment he receives. He may at times lose his temper and make himself a nuisance, and it may seem to be a natural thing for a Police Officer to retaliate either by word or deed and derive a feeling of personal satisfaction at the time; but in the long run the Police service will suffer because that member of the public will have a grievance and tell others of his experience.

It is therefore the duty of Police Officers not to allow personal feelings to prevail on such occasions and to accept any personal

inconvenience or indignities as part of their duty.

The co-operation of the public is essential when dealing with crowds of people. When the crowd is collected for some procession or other outdoor function, the co-operation can be effected by Constables maintaining an even temper and a good humour. When crowds collect in industrial disputes, it is not so easy and the Constables on such occasions should use the utmost amount of tact and not display any partiality in the dispute.

The presentation of Police news to the public from the stand point of the department falls in the area of Public relations. The desire to get along with other people and present one's proper image has occupied the attention of human beings throughout the recorded history. To-day the meaning of public relations is one of complexity of relationships. In the main, however, the public relations man should aspire to tell the public what his principal policies are, what is being done and what is hoped will be done.

Every Police Officer should fully realise that no opportunity for rendering any public service should ever be missed if he really wishes the Force to rise in the estimation of the public and if he is keen on having unstinted public co-operation everywhere and at all times.

* * *

"There is something bitter to bear than the reverses of fortune, it is the ingratitude of men."

—Napoleon Bonaparte.

UNDERWATER ESPIONAGE

by

An Officer of the Special Branch, C.I.D., Madras.

WHEN the Soviet leaders Nikita Khrushchev and Marshal Bulganin, at the height of their power, arrived in Great Britain on an official visit in April 1956 by the Soviet freighter ORDZONIKIDZE, the British Navy was no doubt interested in that sleek, modern Russian war vessel which brought the two leaders. A year before, when SVERDLOV, a sister ship of ORDZONIKIDZE made its appearance in Portsmouth, the curiosity of the British Navy was aroused at the comparative ease and precision with which the vessel manoeuvred into position at the harbour. But, no British pilot or personnel was then permitted to enter the vessel as expressly ordered by the Russian Captain. So, when ORDZONIKIDZE lay at anchor in the Portsmouth harbour after depositing her precious cargo, the Royal Navy thought it was time to have a close look at the vessel.

It was known to the Royal Navy that the Russians had designed a certain device which would forewarn the ship's crew of the approach of any metallic substance under water. This instrument, it was thought, would detect the presence of metal within the ship's hulls or these hulls had some cable running around them for such purpose. The contrivance would help to warn the shipmates the approach of frogmen who might swim under water and attach a limpet bomb to the ship, a mode of destruction extensively resorted to during the Second World War. Further, the Royal Navy wanted to know more about the keel of the vessel which gave it such a manoeuvreability. And who could undertake this arduous task better than Lionel Crabb, the doughty champion of World War-II and Britain's ace-frogman?

Affectionately known as 'Crabbie' to many of his friends and admirers, Commander Lionel 'Buster' Crabb, had a strange and chequered career. He tried his hands at various trades from selling paintings in Paris to filling gas tanks in New Jersey before he finally embarked upon his naval career which was soon to push him to a meteoric rise to fame. But all this was not without a queer beginning which almost upset Crabb. When Crabb applied for the Royal Navy he was promptly rejected as he was suspected to be afflicted with cancer and also, he was almost blind in one eye! This, however, did not deter this stout-hearted aspirant who had already chosen for his career an arduous and adventurous naval life. Almost with equal promptness he joined the Navy Volunteer Reserve. A Lieutenant in the Navy Reserve, Crabb was sent to Gibralter. Crabbie's work first at Gibralter was mostly clerical in nature which he inwardly detested. He was bursting with activity and

willing to take risks. He longed for a far more adventurous life. And, he was to have one, perhaps sooner than he expected.

Gibralter was considered to be one of the 'safe' ports during the war. But when a few tankers were sunk in quick succession the British Admiralty sat up and wanted to know urgently what was wrong. A few hand picked divers were sent to explore the sea. It was found that the Italian frogmen unit had pierced the submarine nets and caused the havoc by means of cigar shaped power crafts. Crabbie volunteered for the diving operations though his own knowledge about swimming was rudimentary and very limited. He often sat late in the nights devouring all available literature on the subject and soon emerged as an expert in diving operations.

Crabbie and his friend Bill Bailey formed an unit of their own called U.W.W.P. (Under Water Working Party). Ill-equipped and primitive in operational technique, the U.W.W.P. stood no comparison to the well trained and better fitted Italian frogmen unit. Notwithstanding these handicaps, the U.W.W.P. went into action and was responsible for inflicting heavy damages to scores of marauding enemy vessels. Some of these encounters included direct and single-handed combats with Italian frogmen under water. As the war wore on, the U.W.W.P. transformed itself into the 'Allied Navies experimental Station' which included the Italian frogmen as well. It was the job of Crabbie and his men to detonate the mines and rid the heavily populated Italian sea-ports from this underwater menace. At the end of the war, Crabbie became a hero and celebrity. He was awarded the rank of Commander and duly decorated.

At the time when Crabbie undertook the mission presumably on behalf of the Royal Navy (though officially disowned), he was living in comparative retirement with his interest tied up in furniture business. But the call for a fresh adventure was to him too irresistible and met with a ready response, although he had had more than his share in the war. Crabbie's actual mission was necessarily a guarded secret and it is so till to-day. But certain facts regarding the movements of Crabbie had become known and these had given rise to a lot of surmise. The former Commander of the Frogmen Unit visited Portsmouth on April 17, 1956 (which he did not since his retirement) shortly before the Russian vessel ORDZONI-KIDZE was berthed. Along with a tall Britisher, he checked in at the Sallyport Hotel registering his name as 'Mr. Smith,' though he had been fairly well known in that town. The same night Crabbie was seen at some of his old hangouts where he was duly recognised by his friends and others and later, he reportedly made phone calls to his partner in the furniture company. He was again seen the following night by the hotel staff. The next evening he set out for what looked like a stroll and that was the last seen of him. When Commander Crabb did not return, the Royal Navy tried to be scrupulously silent. But the taciturn Russians for once broke their silence and openly accused the Royal Navy of sending a frogman to spy on their ship. This, of course, the Royal Navy denied. A little later two Secret service men paid a surprise visit to the Sallyport

Hotel and tore off two pages from the hotel registers, one of which contained entries relating to Mr. Smith. In the meanwhile, the Russian propaganda machinery fully geared up and news of the British spying of the vessel with gargantuan tales of attempted sabotage and assassination of their leaders were gratitutiously fed by the Soviet press for consumption at home and among its satellites.

The British Foreign office and the Admiralty were quite emphatic in their denials on the Crabb incident and even went so far as to suggest that if Crabb had dived, it was on his own and probably for some private commercial agency for which they could not be held responsible. This maudlin plea of diving for some private agency was particularly not vendible, either the Russians or the English public in general. A Russian Embassy spokesman claimed that Russian sailors had seen a frogman under water around the Cruiser but declined to state what had happened to him. Coming as it did from an Embassy official, this statement had only deepened the mystery surrounding Crabb's sudden disappearance. Already the feelings of the British public over the fate of Crabbie was simmering like a peat fire. Neither the British Government's homilies nor the Russian Embassy's cryptic statement afforded any satisfaction to the much agitated Britishers A number of Crabb's friends and his sweet-heart, Mrs. Patricia Rose, demanded a public enquiry despite the British Government imposing an order of silence under the Official Secrets Act. But, the demand was not acceded to as was only to be expected in the circumstances.

Another theory was advanced, very likely under the aegies of the Royal Navy, that Crabbie would have dived very deep and met with his fate due to oxygen poisoning. The oxygen gear, it was given out, was safe only upto a depth of 33 to 35 feet under water and the Russian Cruiser's hull might have been well under the 35 feet limit. This was a nostrum which the British public was not prepared to take for one thing, Commander Crabb was far more experienced to realise his limit and another, even assuming that he died of oxygen poisoning, his body would have been found in a day or two. The matter was therefore relentlessly pursued by all those interested in Crabb and eventually moved to its ultimate denouement, namely the House of Commons, the highest forum of the English people where vital issues affecting the public were often successfully raised and discussed. It was already a month when the issue came up before the House. The matter was keenly debated for a while, but had to be abruptly stopped on grounds of national security.

Later, when a headless body in a frogman's kit was found in the English Channel, the Royal Navy seized the opportunity and came up with a suggestion that it was Buster Crabb's. Many of Crabb's friends who inspected the body vouchsafed that it could not be Crabb's body for the outfit worn by the dead frogman was not the type worn by Crabbie and that the headless man was two inches taller than Crabb and much thinner. All the tinsel of camouflage projected from time to time over Crabb's disappearance thus burned away in the crucible of the British public opinion which was ever alert and keen.

While all the theories about Crabb's death were thus either negatived or disbelieved at all stages, there is still a lingering hope left in the minds of many friends and admirers of Buster Crabb that he is after all alive possibly serving a term of detention in a remotest region of the Soviet Union They seem to argue that a Crabb alive would be far more useful to the Russians than a Crabb dead. In this context, much reliance is placed on the information credited to a source high up in the French Embassy that Crabb is held in solitary confinement in the LEFORTOV prison in the Soviet Union. If it is true, there appears to be little prospect of Crabbie's early return to London. But, his fiancee, Mrs. Patricia Rose and other friends are willing to wait until then.

The Crabb incident is remarkable for the fact that it is a significant departure from the usual known modes of espionage. The business of spying is indeed a fascinating and never ending process and seems to suffer no inhibitions – land, air or water!

• • •

VERDICT

A man was killed by a train near a country village, and an inquest was held.

The jury consisted of villagers unused to such proceedings and the coroner, wishing to be helpful, advised them to bring in a verdict of "felo de se."

Having retired to consider their verdict some argument arose among the jury as to what the coroner meant. The foreman soon settled the difficulty.

"This coroner chap", he explained, "knows what he's talking about. He's had these jobs before. If he says the dead man fell in the sea, he fell in the sea."

A few minutes later the jury filed back into court, and the foreman announced the verdict, "Found drowned."

POLICE AND THE PRESS

by

Md. MUNAVAR,
Asst. Commissioner of Police, Vigilance, Madras.

INDIA before 1947 was a Police State. The main function of the State, in such a set up, was security, from external aggression and against internal disorders. The Armed Forces and the Police looked after these jobs respectively. But now in a Welfare State, it becomes the duty of the administration to see that its activities are focussed towards ensuring the best to the majority of the people.

This purpose can be achieved by the Police only with the public support and co-operation. To ensure and maintain good public relations, the police must have contacts with the citizens and also seek to influence the large majority of the people with whom, it may not be possible to come into personal contact. The only satisfactory way, in which the general public can be contacted, is through the Press. It is the mass medium which can be used to influence the large majority of the public with whom the police may not come into contact. The press has undoubtedly a tremendous capacity for moulding public opinion and it is therefore necessary for the Police to contact the press consciously and continuously. The Press also seeks to serve the public as the Police do. It is necessary that the functions of the Police and the Press should be understood in the correct perspective.

News is the bread and butter of the Press. The press in its search for news has its eyes directed closely on the work of the Police, By giving news it attracts the interest of the public, sells its papers and gains circulation. The stories of human interest uncovered by police is more fascinating to man's curiosity. They are the stories of plots, incidents, and criminal offences in all social and economic classes. The press seeks to serve current incomplete news and are not interested in the full information. There are certain journals that do harm to society by publishing obscene, distortive version of incidents, thus creating sensation and such journals must be controlled under the relevant provisions of the I. P. C. and sections 14–15 of the Press Registration of Books Act. But greater harm is also done at times by good journals on account of want of accuracy in details. It is therefore necessary to have a proper liason at reasonable levels between the press and the police.

The Freedom of speech is guaranteed in our constitution in Article 19 (1). But there is also a provision in clause 19 (2)

that reasonable restrictions could be imposed on freedom of speech in extraordinary cases, if it offends (i) the interest of the security of the State (ii) friendly relations with Foreign States (iii) public order, decency and morality (iv) if it related to matters subjudice and amounted to contempt of Court, defamation etc., and (v) if it amounted to incitement of crime. In such cases restrictions have to be imposed and this will cover the Police attitude towards the criticism in the Press.

The functions of the Police are the prevention and detection of crime and effective maintenance of law and order, regulation of traffic and rendering help to the Community. It is felt universally by police Administration that they are not qualified to deal with representatives of the press. The Press are reluctant to accept this point of view as it prevents the reporters from obtaining a first hand account of police incidents and getting correct answers to all his queries; it causes the reporter to give credit for good work to a supervisory officer when actually the credit belongs to a subordinate and many good stories are lost to the press because they are matters of official record and the source of such stories has been blocked.

In the field of investigation there is an inescapable conflict of interest between the Police and the Press. The duty of the police is to trace the culprit and bring him to justice. In fact public interest is, in many cases a hindrance rather than a help. The Press reporter's business is to secure stories. Hence there is competition amongst papers and reporters. If the Press functions hand to hand with the Police in the maintenance of Law & Order and control of crime, then the public will be benefitted. The conflict of interest between the Police and the Press should be solved. The Press must be fed with the current and factual information by an authorised source.

The police should adopt an attitude of frankness with Press representatives. They may hold information relating to (i) subversive activities (ii) names of juveniles under any circumstances short of murder (iii) names of female victims in sex crimes when the victim is not guilty or has no bad reputation or was not guilty of conduct that provoked assault (iv) Facts, the publication of which would affect the department as a whole, thereby impairing public relation. If the police are not taking the press into their confidence, leakage of information is bound to happen and the publication in the press will be to the embarrassment of the police and to the disadvantage of the victims. In this connection, the attention is drawn to the restrictions placed on police officers in the conduct rules 16 to 19 and one should abide by them with care and attention.

The value of Press contact was discovered as early as 1835, six years after the Metropolitan police force in London came into existence. Friendly relations with the Editors of responsible news papers were established and facts supplied to many incidents. A Press Service was formed in 1919 in the development of public relations. In 1945, the post of public Information Officer was created. The function of the Public Information Officer is to advise the Commissioner of Police on matter relating

to Publicity and to cultivate personal relation with Newspaper Editors. Liason with press is maintained largely through the Press Bureau. Police messages, about crimes, accidents and other matters are sent to the press Bureau and after being edited and given to the Pressmen on duty for publication.

The best procedure of News release is to set a source of information instead of news being given to the Press at all levels in the Police Department. The Police and the Press are vital to each other and there should never be a rift between the two, however unsmooth the path to be traversed may be. The Police and the Press are vital to the service of the Society and the nation. Both the Police and the Press should build a solid bridge through personal relationship and fair treatment by exhibiting justice, fair-play, integrity and mutual understanding.

* * *

WISE JUDGE

A wise old Scot, who was a Judge was once asked to settle a dispute between two brothers over inheritance of a large estate. The Judge's decision is historic: "Let one brother divide the estate, and let the other brother have first choice."

POLICE TRAINING COLLEGE, VELLORE — FOOT-BALL TEAM

RUNNERS-UP IN THE NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT FOOT-BALL LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

CONDUCTED BY THE NORTH ARCOT DT. FOOT-BALL ASSOCIATION, 1965.

Sitting : L. to R. (1) P. Kandasamy, (2) R. Subramaniyan, (3) ***P. Paramaguru,*** M.A., B.L., I.P.S. (Principal), President, The North Arcot District Foot-Ball Association, (4) P. J. Casey, H.D.I. (Captain), (5) G. Raghavan.

Standing : L. to R. (1) K. Sivasubramaniyan, (2) K. Shanmugam, (3) P. Rajasekaran, (4) R. Sathyamurthy, (5) C. G. Madanmohan, (6) K. Padmanabhan, (Vice-Captain), (7) Ramanathan.

PERJURY IS THE ALLY OF FORGERY

by

Dewan K. S. PURI,

Examiner of Questioned Documents, Patiala.

IT is a well settled law that normal eye-witnesses are always better than the most honest and skilful expert evidence. After all, the latter is only an opinion based on a scientific data.

But, this fact also cannot be denied that very often some witnesses are available on party or friendship basis or for financial deal, who can swear to anything which never occurred in their presence and sometimes even when they positively know it to be otherwise.

It is here that the party on the correct side is in difficulty and it may not be easy for a court, under these conditions, to come to a correct decision, as the courts have to decide on the material on the file.

It is an equally settled convention that perjury is the ally of forgery. Witnesses are usually consulted before a forgery is attempted, and therefore, they virtually become a party although in the eye of law they remain independent witnesses. Naturally, when the case comes to the court, these witnesses try their utmost to uphold the forgery as genuine, as otherwise, they too can be hauled up for abetment.

But still, there are cases in which the expert evidence is so strong for forgery of a document that no amount of eye-witnesses can make it a genuine one. Yet, there will be allies of the forger to pose as eye-witnesses and to state on oath that they did witness an impossibility. This will be very clear from the following instance :

The plaintiff Chhajjasingh filed a suit in the court of the Subordinate Judge I Class, Shri K. B. Andley, PCS, for the recovery of his land, but the defence was that he had already sold that land to the defendants.

There was a regular sale deed, scribed by a petition writer, thumb marked by the plaintiff in the presence of two marginal witnesses and duly attested by the Registrar of Documents.

The eye-witnesses stated that they knew and recognised (in court) Chhajjasingh who

sold his land, received a consideration executed the said deed by putting his thumb impression in their presence and got it registered before the Registrar.

The plaintiff was taken by surprise. He not only did not thumb mark any such document but also never appeared before the Registrar. Still, the document was there and the witnesses to swear that they "saw" him do all that. What helplessness; when so many persons are in league against a poor individual.

At the request of the plaintiff, the court got the disputed thumb impression compared with his specimen thumb impressions and the expert opinion was that the disputed thumb mark was not even of the type of left or the right hand thumb marks of the plaintiff. Hence, it could not be his thumb impression.

On this evidence, despite all those eye-witnesses, the court declared that the document was fabricated by the defendants in connivance with the witnesses. In the Judgment it recorded:

> "Shri Puri has opined that the disputed thumb impression "Q1", "Q2" and "Q3" on Ex.D3/1 are of whorl type while the specimen thumb impressions of the plaintiff are of loop type. This difference is clearly visible in the photo-enlargements Exs. PW3/B, PW3/C and PW3/D. Due to this basic difference the disputed thumb impressions on Ex.D3/1 cannot be of Chhajjasingh. Sri. Puri has given detailed reasons for this conclusion in his report Ex. PW3/E and the same may, with tolerable safety, be taken to be true, as his opinion is always based on sound reasoning. Moreover, the science of finger prints is quite advanced and the element of error in it is very small. I have myself carefully perused both the disputed as well as the specimen thumb impressions. They are distinctly of different types and cannot be of one and the same person.
>
> To my mind, to eradicate the evils of perjury and fabricating false evidence and in the interest of justice it is expedient that Amarsingh, Khusiasingh and Kapursingh defendants, and Partapsingh and Jogindersingh witnesses be prosecuted for the offence in this case. Separate complaints be lodged against these persons".

If, as a rule, the eye-witnesses are to be given preference over expert-witnesses then this fabricated document might have passed as genuine and the plaintiff was to loose his right of property.

In another case, the plaintiff filed a suit on 22-5-64 (dates are material) on the basis of document dated 25-5-1961. Apart from the plaintiff, two other witnesses deposed that the document was executed on the said date and therefore, they also put the same date below their attestations. But the examination of the date clearly suggested the year, in "25-5-1961" was originally "1964" (in Urdu script), changed into "1963" and re-altered into "1961".

Of course, corrections are usually made, and therefore, this document was also produced in the court without much hitch

or awe, but with what idea the corrections are made, makes all the difference. Sometimes, the under-lying idea remains rankling in the change and which no doubt attracts attention of the investigator.

In the above light, coming to this change, it is not plausible that any normal writer would write "1964" in the year "1961". Usually last year may be mentiond by mistake but not the next years. But, for the sake of argument, even if this is conceded as a mistake, then, what was the difficulty in directly changing the last figure "4" into "1". And, if the document was really written in the year 1961, where from came the idea of converting it as "1963" from "1964" in the year 1961. And why? Obviously, the document could not have been executed in the year 1961.

Now it is clear that for filing the suit, the document was forged in the same year 1964 and for givivg a normal limitation period, it was proposed to be pre-dated to the year "1961". But, by force of habit of writting the current year, the current year "1964" slipped in, instead of the proposed year "1961".

Naturally, no suit could be filed on 22-5-1964 on a document dated 25-5-1964 and, if it was for revenge (as alleged), then, as Punjabis are made, it could not wait for the next year.

It is easy to change "4" into "3" than into "1" (in Urdu script) and the forger, therefore, on that impulse, made it "1963" but then, he might have argued or been advised that it would be too early or look suspicious to file the suit when limitation was for three years. A forger can be nervous on any point real or imaginary.

Also, it is not uncommon that a forger might take abnormal precautions. This forger too thought it safe to rechange the year into "1961" from "1963". In doing so, he must have been encouraged by the fact that the witnesses were the last to sign and [illegible] they, being his own men, would put w[illegible] ever date he would like them to write. [illegible] of course, the proposed date "25—5—19[illegible] was below the signatures of all [illegible] witnesses.

The signature of the "executant" on [illegible] document was also forged, but for [illegible] there were the "eye-witnesses" to state [illegible] the defendant put his signature in [illegible]r presence. It might be difficult to con[illegible]ce a court only on signatures.

Now comes the question that when the signature was also a forged one, then why a new document was not substituted. One cannot say how a forger may act. Probably, this forgery was prepared by an accustomed or professional forger who never wanted to confess to his friends or "clients" that he could falter. Even a forger has his prestige to guard.

Deep inside, even if he feared, he might have been swept away by the knowledge that the witnesses were yet to sign and if they could write a clear date, it would remove all doubts, if any. Otherwise, according to him, the forgery was complete as nobody bothers for the expert evidence on signatures in face of clear and respectable eye-witnesses. Poor fellow did not know that it is from such like ommissions and

commissions that a forgery is detected. Now he may be richer in experience.

When the above evidence was being demonstrated in the court, inspite of eye-witnesses on his side, the plaintiff, well knowing the facts of his case, would not wait for another day and at once withdrew his suit from the court. He wrote down a pronote in favour of the defendant in lieu of the costs. It will be useful to submit here that but for the slip in the year which was for the first time pointed out in expert evidence, this forgery allied by perjury might have succeeded.

Prestige or greed sometimes drive out the normal precautions. Truly speaking, much depends on the mentality of a forger. In a case a very strange type of forgery came to light. A will was forged by affixing another's thumb print which, naturally, did not tally with other admitted thumb impressions of the deceased on a document produced by the other party.

The party producing the will, with "injured innocence" submitted to the court that it had a registered document of the deceased (executant of the will). The other party also admitted this document to be genuine. These admitted thumb impressions were identical with the disputed thumb impressions on the will in all necessary ridge details and therefore must be from the same origin.

But, during examination under magnification a surprising factor was revealed. The loose paper fibres were embedded inside the linked ridges. Further examination showed the indication of an erasure of paper below these admitted thumb impressions only and nowhere else. Moreover, there were some traces of another set of ridges, beneath the present set of ridges.

When all these points were patched together, it dawned on the expert that the original thumb marks on this admitted document were lightly rubbed off and the person who allied with the forger in forging the will, also put his thumb impression (with a deep coloured ink) there by covering the naked-eye visibility of the original thumb marks. However, the witnesses were there to swear that the deceased affixed these very thumb impressions on the admitted document. In this way, they wanted to stab the opposite party in the back.

The expert refused to accept this document for standard thumb marks and wanted time to take photographic enlargements to present the case to the court, but my readers must have guessed by now that such an expert who makes that much probe against the party calling him, was given up.

In another case, a will was forged in a blank space above the existing thumb impression. It was noted that the first six writing lines had a wide space but then the spacing reduced to such an extent that the last lines appeared to be squeezed and very much over-crowded.

At other places of this very document, the writer had shown the habit of writing a long line above the thumb impressions to indicate name etc., but only the executant's name was on the right side of the thumb impression in two lines and each time the end was near the thumb impression showing

that the thumb impression was already there when written.

Had this will been written in normal course, then naturally, the thumb impression would have not been there before writing. In that case, there was no reason for the scribe to reduce his normal spacing between the writing lines (especially here the thumb impression), or to leave his habit of writing the name etc., in one long line, as otherwise, there was enough space on the paper for the thumb impression. But, all this had to be done on account of the already existing position of the thumb impression.

It was also found that the entry in the petition writer's register was made over a previous entry by converting the same into the present entry. This further added to the proof that the will was a forged one.

The forger, with the genuineness of the thumb impression and so many witnesses on his side, was so sure of his success that these defects went right by him, but when they were being logically demonstrated to the court, the plaintiff took no time in withdrawing the suit which was allowed, but the court ordered prosecution of the witnesses who had already deposed in favour of the will.

Regarding such forgeries and their attesting witnesses, the Supreme Court of India, in Shri Ramachandra Versus Shrimati Champabai (AIR 1965 SC 358) has observed:

> "The signature of Ramdhan is itself in Modi script, which would not have been the case if he was well-versed in Urdu. When we turn to the reverse of the sheet on which the document is inscribed, we find that as we go lower down, more and more words seem to be crammed in each line and the spacing between two lines tends to decrease, even though there appears to have been plenty of room for the signature of Ramdhan to be scribed lower down on the paper. It would be legitimate to infer from this that the signature was already there before the will was scribed. This feature of the document as well as the quality of the paper used would suggest that a piece of paper bearing Ramdhan's signature has been utilised for engrossing what purports to be a will."

> "Learned counsel has taken us through the evidence of the appellant, the scribe and three attesting witnesses examined by him. All this evidence has been critically examined by the High Court but, for the reasons given by it in its judgment, not accepted by it. We find no reasons for viewing the evidence differently".

In early days, it might have been possible to see such documents through, but these days, the courts have kindly begun also to give weight to the expert opinion. This evidence is also looked into as any other evidence. It is now for the experts to establish that they can be of service to justice, by giving their impartial opinions based on logical and understandable reasons. They should always surrender to the limitations of the science, thereby impressing their honesty and sincerity.

* * *

AN ADDRESS TO TRAINEES

by

M. A. JAMAL HUSSAIN, B.A., B.L.,

District & Sessions Judge, North Arcot, Vellore, to the Cadets and Officers under training, Police Training College, Vellore, on 19—4—1965.

Revered and Respected Principal, Cadets and Officers of the Police Training College,

I take it as a privilege that I should be asked to address you on a subject which is very dear to me and about which I have bestowed a lot of thoughts in my nearly twenty years of service. Particularly, I am very happy to be in your midst today in the company of my old and revered friend, Mr. P. Paramaguru. When he requested me—I should think last week or previous to that—I had no idea in my mind as to how I should address you and on what subject. Now that your Principal has not fixed me to any subject, I am a free bird today to talk to you on any subject that could be of use to you and understood by you from the aspect of a Judge.

Gentlemen, first I should like to remind you what generally a judicial officer or a judge who has much to deal with you day to day, expects of you. It is very important for you to know. That also is a replica or a reflection of generally what the public requires of you and expects of you. It is said, and, I believe, most of you may not dispute, especially the trained and experienced members of the service, that a Bobby is born and not made. It is a gifted service, unique service, a very valuable service which every society must and should have. An efficient, trained, capable police force is an asset to any country, to any society, big or small and to any state. I should think that you are very fortunate to be members of a particular police force which is second to none in this broad and beloved country of ours. The Madras State Police Force has got a tradition which I think is hardly equalized by any force in any part of this country.

I had known very many old police officers from my boyhood because my father was a friend of them. The first impression, I had of a police officer, was of a D. S. P. at Tanjore, a sturdy man with an air of importance and at the same time very practical. His very presence was an assurance to the public. I say this because the public must have confidence in the police force. Coming to the lower cadre my father had two particular friends; one Habibullah Querishi, Taluk Inspector of Police at Kumbakonam and another very burly man, Baker Hussain, Town Inspector. Baker Hussain wrote a book titled "Guide to Police Officers." I knew him as a boy of 5 or 6 years. When I was studying for law, 20 years later my recollection is, I read that book and it gave me, as a law student, a complete idea as to the scope, nature and purpose of police work. I give you this background because to be a member of the police force is not an easy joke.

Let me now come to the subject with this background. First of all, what makes a policeman? I put myself that question and see whether you have satisfied the tests which I lay before you. A member of the police force must have, above all, character. It is the fundamental basis on which the work of a policeman or the work of the police force should solidly stand; because, as I said, law and order of a State or a country depends upon them. If recently the police force, without any break, can stand against an agitation and come out in flying colours, do you think it has come in a haphazard way? Behind it stood character, discipline and hardened experience. That was why you were able to stand the onslaught of an unfortunate agitation and come out successful. The police force is now headed by **Mr. Arul,** about whom I have got the highest praise, not because he is my friend but because of his certain principles of approach. I respect the words he said here some days before **"Always Stand by the weak".** It thrilled me to the bone - the head of the police force of the Madras State should say that to you. For that, you must have character to stand behind them for justice. By the weak, I mean the oppressed and not the physically weak people.

The second thing is knowledge of police work. Character is different. Knowledge of police work is different. Knowledge of police work should come to you by training and from what you learn from your Principal, Tutors and Instructors and also by your own sagacity and common sense.

First, I shall take the subject Training. I know very little about the course of practical training here. I am sure, however, it will enable you to stand the onslaught of strain and difficulties which you have to face in the day to day carrying out of your duties. For the police force solid and impeccable training is required. That also necessarily involves your sticking to discipline. Discipline involves mental discipline, mental approach, steadiness, mental balance and awareness.

Then, I want to talk to you about 'Investigation'. Yours is not a very enviable job. Our society is backward. Crimes are done in remote and uninhabited places like the Javadi hills. As soon as you receive the information unless you go to the spot as quickly as possible and take up investigation you can take it from me, as a judge of some standing, that mostly you will fail. Even if there is a delay of two or three hours, I know witnesses will be tampered. Imprints on the scene of crime will be obliterated and by the time you go there, it would be a *fait accompli*. There was one Inspector in Coimbatore who had a motor-cycle. He had a peculiar knack of dashing off to the place of occurrence as soon as he hears the news of a crime. His achievement was nearly 98 or 99 percent. In one case, before the criminal reached the police station with the blood-stained clothing and weapon, the Inspector was on the scene of offence. Could any fellow have any chance of tampering with the witnesses? There was no scope for mischief or interference. In our present society, we know, there are factions in the villages. In one place there will be ten factions and even in the 10 factions there will be sub factions. So, go as quickly as possible to the scene of occurrence and take up the investigation. In a recent case I gave

conviction in a murder case believing the police case, particularly an entry in the G.D. to which the defence counsel had no access. The murderer who had committed the offence within a reserve forest, emerged from the forest to the trunk road, got into a bus and left in an agitated manner. The conductor and the checking inspector of the bus have seen him in that agitated condition. The investigating officer had gone there by some chance in connection with the investigation of some other minor offence. Two shepherd boys have seen the accused going inside the forest with the woman whom he had murdered. The defence attacked the prosecution case vehemently as a concocted story. I sent for the G D., and found that the circumstances under which the witnesses had been pitched upon could not be doubted.

In the matter of investigation you have to rely upon your own common sense, sagacity, capacity to face odd facts and complications. My advice to you is to study some good books. Officers who are wishing to become good investigating officers should study records of previous trials, some judgments where the accused have been convicted, the points of attack by the defence, how the investigation was conducted and also study some cases where the courts disbelieved the prosecution case and given acquittal. I can give you instances after instances and talk for hours and hours. I am only giving you the broad aspects of investigation. Always do not believe anybody's story in toto. Scrutinize it. Find out whether the version given by him or her is correct. In the matter of investigation on the spot, do not leave anything as unncessary. At that time it may look trivial. In the long run, when it comes to the hard logic of judging, even small things may tilt the balance. A murder case was traced from a bus ticket. That small piece served as an important clue later to show from which place the criminal came. The prosecution was able to build up a complete structure on that. That bus ticket, which at the beginning appeared to have little bearing, served as an important link So, do not leave anything as a trivial thing. In my experience I have come across many pre-meditated murders; where murders have been contemplated months ago, where the criminal had thought over how effectively he could get away from being caught. Even in such cases trails had been left in spite of the criminal's efforts and premeditation months and months before. Supposing you do not take notice of that small clue at the proper time you will never get an opportunity again during the rest of the investigation.

Gentlemen, I do feel that the matter of investigation is a special subject and most of you must get efficient about it. You have not only to utilize your experience but also your common sense, alertness, your sense of observation and so many other things.

Before I end, I wish to tell you one or two things also. Now, crimes have changed much in complex. Criminals have become much more efficient and intelligent. In England one day I was tuning the television. I saw the picture "Scotland Yard Calling". They showed in twenty minutes how a bank thief could open a safe vault in the bank. If one fellow can manage to open a safe vault of a bank, what amount of skill and knowledge that fellow must have acquired. It was a challenge even to the makers for

the safe. I was witnessing that breathlessly for twenty minutes. He operated by using fine instruments. Afterwards, during the rest of my tour I never cared to lock the door of my room because there was no use of my closing when there were thieves who can open a safe vault. I can also give you one more of my experience. I was on the 17th platform of Venice station, which is one of the biggest stations in Europe. I lost two of my suit cases. In every European station there is a policewoman. I went and complained. Within 7 or 8 minutes the suit cases were traced and handed over to me. It was simply marvellous. I am not decrying our training and experience. What I am saying is police work has become much more advanced because criminals and criminality have also advanced. As criminality is being imported and our criminals are getting more ideas from foreign criminals, it is high time we also advance our ideas of approach to criminals in a more modern way. In that background I request some of you at least to specially study investigation as a special subject; and possibly you may get help from the Government. I personally feel that investigation must be a special branch entrusted to certain capable men who are specially trained in the art of investigation.

Cadets and Officers, I am very happy to be in your midst. Of course, I can only touch some subjects. It is more out of affection and friendship for me that the Principal has asked me to address you. I believe that the little that I have said here will be of some help to you in the days to come. I wish you all good luck and every success.

* * *

" So slow is Justice in its ways
Beset by more than customary clogs,
Going to law in these expensive days
Is much the same as going to dogs"

—Willock.

Crime Statement for the Quarter Ending 31–3–1965

Name of District	Area in sq. miles	Population	Total number of crimes	Offences relating to Currency and Bank notes	Offences relating to Coins	Murder	Kidnapping	Dacoity and preparation and assembling of dacoity	Robbery	House breaking	Thefts	Criminal assault	Total number of juveniles concerned	Policemen per 10,000 of population
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
Madras City	49.4	20,00,000	1,520	5	—	4	10	—	2	35	791	51	85	28
Govt. Rly. Police, Tiruchirapalli	2,457		323	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	156	—	12	—
Tiruchirapalli	5,571.13	26,95,071	964	—	—	26	12	1	2	204	71	—	1	—
Thanjavur	3,742.01	28,82,670	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Arcot	42.08	27,90,651	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chingleput	335.31	18,53,619	683	—	—	1	2	—	2	158	270	126	34	10.3
North Arcot	4,654	28,65,235	359	—	—	14	1	—	3	121	235	—	21	—
Salem	6,894.8	30,97,220	482	—	—	36	11	1	4	144	332	168	22	6
Coimbatore	6,024	31,54,296	1,502	—	—	29	13	2	1	200	1,042	—	31	5
Nilgiris	1,098.14	2,79,359	277	—	—	2	2	—	—	49	66	21	1	13
Madurai Urban	1,769.761	12,68,828	710	—	—	4	—	—	—	40	235	4	7	12
Madurai North	3,099.24	16,22,989	502	1	—	21	3	1	—	54	163	—	14	6
Ramanathapuram	5,919	23,09,938	2,277	—	—	11	7	—	—	68	195	—	5	—
Tirunelveli	4,337	24,45,967	741	2	—	27	11	2	12	208	344	67	52	9
Kanyakumari	646	8,24,000	126	—	1	2	1	—	1	34	37	17	7	8

EDITORIAL:

WE MARCH ON...

WE announce with pleasure that we are marching on merrily and progressing satisfactorily in making our Journal more attractive, interesting and useful. We have commenced the improvements with the Cover page.

The next main feature introduced is the READERS' FORUM which has received a fair response from our readers. The subject for the ensuing Issue is: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR JOB AS A POLICE OFFICER? We do hope many more readers would send their considered views on the subject by 15—11—'65 well in time for publication.

Another interesting new Column is the DISTRICT NEWS. We expect this column to be quite popular. Under this column any news of Police interest in the City and Districts pertaining to serious Crimes and their Detection, Sports and Welfare Activities and any acts of gallantry or promoting good Police-Public relation will be published. We earnestly desire that everyone should make the best use of this column.

Besides, we have the LEGAL and SCIENTIFIC sections in this issue. In future, they will form the regular features in our Journal.

We have published the Rules for the PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION for 1965 in this Issue also. Senior Officers are once again requested to give due publicity to the Competition and encourage officers of all ranks to send their entries on or before 1—11—1965.

We warmly welcome contributions for the columns CARTOONS and CARICATURES as well as WIT and HUMOUR.

We wish to reiterate to all our readers that this Journal is yours and without you it cannot flourish. We assure one and all that with your increased co-operation we would certainly effect noteworthy improvements and continue to march on.

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RULES OF THE ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MADRAS POLICE JOURNAL

1965.

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1. A Committee consisting of the Inspector-General of Police, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Railways and Armed Police, and the Editor of the Madras Police Journal will judge the photos and their decision will be final.

2. A prize of Rs. 50/- will be awarded for the photo which is adjudged the best and next two bests will be awarded Rs. 30/- and Rs. 20/- respectively.

3. Photos must be the original work of the competitor and must be certified by a Gazetted Police Officer that it was taken by the sender.

4. The photo should be of black and white.

5. The photo should be on subjects of POLICE INTEREST and of CABINET size.

6. No photo will be returned to the competitor. The competitor shall transfer the right to print to the Editor and the Editor reserves the copyright and the right to publish or not, any or all photos.

7. Competitors should not send more than three entries each and should furnish their full and complete address.

8. The competition is open to all ranks of the Madras Police Force.

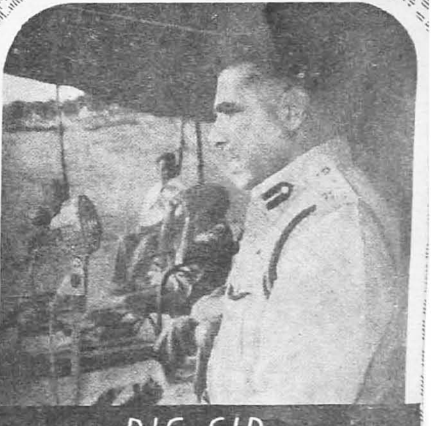
9. Photos should be sent to the Principal, Police Training College, Vellore, so as to reach him on or before 1—11—1965 and photos received after that date will not be considered for the competition.

STATE DUTY MEET- 1965.

Scientific Aids Competition

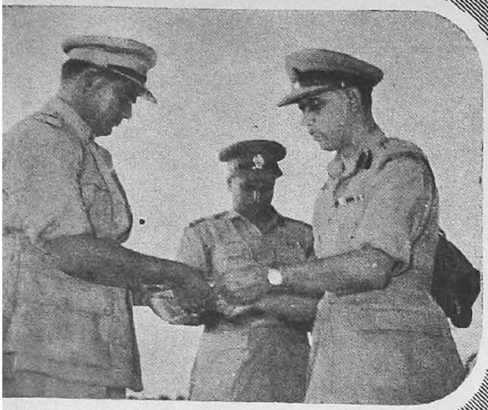
I.G.P., Sri F. V. ARUL, I.P., Addresses

Shooting Competition

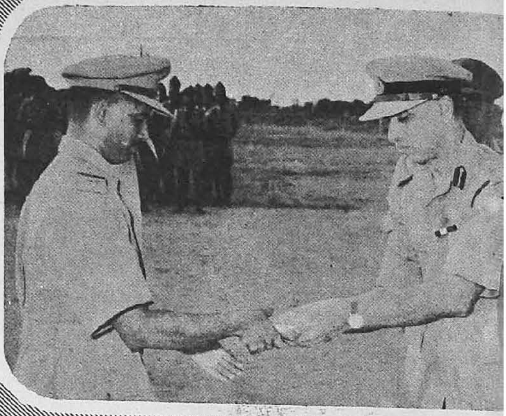


D.I.G., C.I.D.,
Sri P. Kuppuswamy, I.P.S.
Welcomes

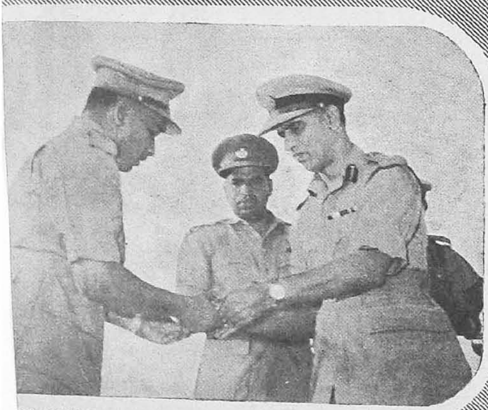
DUTY MEET PRIZE DISTRIBUTION



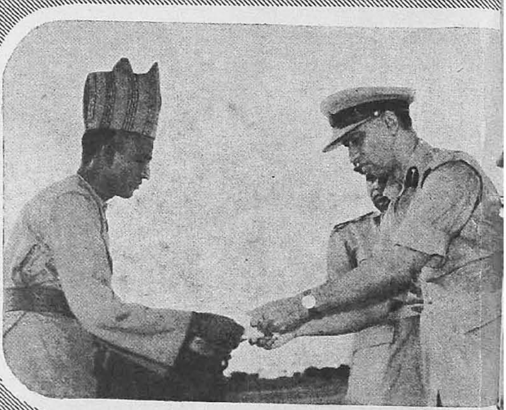
Insp. Padmanabhan, P.T.C., Vellore, receiving First Prize in Finger Prints from I.G.P.



S. I. Ramakrishnan, Madras City, who bagged 4 First Prizes & 2 Second Prizes, receiving prize from I.G.P.



S.I. Narayanan Nair, Madurai Urban receiving First Prize in Packing from I.G.P.



H.C.816 Alagiriswamy, Madurai R.P. receiving First Prize in